DO YOU NEED AN UNSECURED SMALL BUSINESS LOAN OF \$5,000 TO \$50,000?



Are you in need of some working capital to start or expand a business? Can your small business use an unsecured business loan? Then plan on attending a Financial Opportunities workshop being held throughout the state to learn more about the Community Express and other SBA loan programs.

The Small Office Home Office (SOHO), which falls under SBA's Community Express Loan Program is a pilot program developed in collaboration with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC). The SOHO small business loan requires no collateral, no tax returns, no business plans or financial statements. Loans can be approved in the amounts of \$5,000 to \$50,000. Loan proceeds

can be used for equipment and machinery, working capital, inventory or business expansion. Loans will be funded for a seven or ten-year term with no pre-payment penalty and have an interest rate of Prime plus 4.5 or 4.75 percent. There is a packaging fee required (varies with lender), which is refundable if the loan is not approved.

To be eligible for a loan, applicants must have NOT have: defaulted on a prior government loan (i.e. student loan); be delinquent on child support; or have an IRS tax lien filed against them. Loan applications can be processed through the various technical assistance providers located throughout the state

(http://www.sba.gov/wv/wv_communityexpress.html).

Contact Rick Haney at the SBA at (304) 623-5631 ext. 230 or by email at <u>richard.haney@sba.gov</u> for more information. A listing of upcoming workshops is listed below.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS WEST VIRGINIA

September 2006

September 5 – Chester-Newell (Hancock County) – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Holiday Inn Express, 1181 Washington Street. To register, contact the Chester-Newell Area Chamber of Commerce at (304) 387-2025 (email: chester-newellchamber@verizon.net) or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 5 – Morgantown – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Morgantown Chamber of Commerce, 1009 University Avenue. To register, contact Deborah Adrian (email: Deborah@morgantownchamber.org) at (304) 292-3311 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 6 – Philippi – 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. – Medallion Restaurant, 7 South Main Street. To register, contact the Barbour County Chamber of Commerce at (304) 457-1958 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 6 – Kingwood – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Preston County Board of Education Conference Room, Preston High School Campus. To register, contact the Preston County Chamber of Commerce (email: prestoncoc@labyrinth.net) at (304) 329-0576 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 7 – Kearneysville (Jefferson County) – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. – BizTech Center, 150 East Burr Boulevard. To register, contact the Community and Technical College of Shepherd SBDC at (304) 260-4385 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 7 – Romney – 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. – Taggart Hall, 91 South High Street. To register, contact the Hampshire County Chamber of Commerce (email: hampshirechamberofcommerce@citlink.net) at (304) 822-7221 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

September 8 – Parkersburg – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – WorkForce WV Center, 206 Lakeview Center. To register, contact Cheryl McHugh (email: cmchugh@rosslearning.com) at (304) 420-4531 or Barbara Carder (email: barbara.carder@sba.gov) at the SBA at (800) 767-8052 ext. 8.

For a listing of Technical Assistance providers for West Virginia, visit the WV Community Express web page at:

http://www.sba.gov/wv/wv_communityexpress.html

For additional information or if would like to schedule an event in your area, contact Rick Haney at the SBA at (304) 623-5631 ext. 230 or by email at richard.haney@sba.gov.